

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 remain pending in the Application and are subject to a restriction requirement. Specifically, the Examiner restricted the claims as follows:

Group 1: Claims 1-10, drawn to an interior trim component.

Group 2: Claim 11, drawn to an armrest.

Group 3 : Claims 12-14. Drawn to a method of manufacturing.

Applicants respectfully traverse the restriction between claims 1-10, designated as Group 1, and claim 11, designated as Group 2. Specifically, Applicants note that claim 1 is generic to claims 2-11. In particular, the armrest recited in claim 11 is but one species of automotive interior component, as recited in claim 1. This is clearly disclosed in the Application, for example, at paragraph 2 which recites that "these interior trim components include instrument panels, armrests, door trim panels, and consoles." At paragraph 5, the Application states that the trim component of the invention "may be an armrest, a door trim panel, an instrument panel, a console, or other interior trim items of a vehicle." At paragraph 22, the Application states "while the exemplary trim component has been shown and described herein in the form of the armrest 10, it would be recognized that the trim component may alternatively be provided in the form of other interior components, such as instrument panels or dashboards, consoles, door panels, or various other automotive trim components." For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully traverse the restriction between claims 1-10 and claim 11 and respectfully assert that these claims should be examined together.

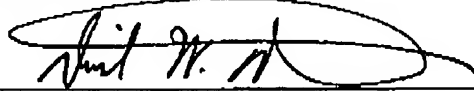
Provisional Election of Claims

Applicants respectfully request that claims 1-11 be examined together, as discussed above. If, however, the Examiner maintains the restriction, Applicants provisionally elect Group 1, claims 1-10, for examination on the merits.

Applicants do not believe that any fees are required as a result of this communication. If any fees are deemed necessary, please charge these to Deposit Account 23-3000.

Respectfully submitted,

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